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## **PRESS RELEASE**

Michael Broadbent MW has been appointed Honorary President of the Wine & Spirit Education Trust (WSET), with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2007, and his first official role will be to preside over the WSET's first graduation ceremony, to which all Diploma graduates from 2007 will be invited.

Michael has over 50 years' experience in the wine industry after leaving behind his architect training to enter the trade in 1952. Having qualified as a Master of Wine in 1960 Michael went on to become senior director of the wine department at the London auction house Christie's right through to the 1990s. In 1979 he was appointed Chevalier dans l'Ordre National du Merite. Since 1986 Broadbent has been President of the International Wine and Food Society as well as an honorary member of the Académie du Vin de Bordeaux.

Michael Broadbent said of his appointment, "I'm delighted to be honoured in this way. The WSET, it's core values and it's drive to deliver wine and spirit education to the very highest of standards the world over, are central to the continued growth of the industry and I will do all I can to further their cause."

Ian Harris (WSET Chief Executive) added, "We are very pleased to have Michael as our first Honorary President. Michael is one of the international wine industry's most admired figures and as the Trust continues to grow in the UK and expand its reach over the globe it is very fitting that name of such world renowned stature has accepted this appointment. We are in the process of planning the graduation ceremony, which will be held at the Guildhall in London on January 21, and we hope that most of the 300+ Diploma graduates who complete the qualification in 2007 throughout the world will want to come to London to this prestigious event, and to meet a man who has played such a huge part in the development of the wine market."

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### *EDITORS NOTES:*

WSET is the largest global provider of education in wines and spirits and is approved by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority. WSET has been developing the trade professional for over 38 years, and in the last academic year over 17,000 candidates in 38 countries and nine languages sat a WSET examination. Find out more about WSET at [www.wset.co.uk](http://www.wset.co.uk)